

April 2006

**Questions and Answers re:  
Sales of Older Wild Horses  
to Equine Rescue Groups**

**Why is the BLM selling older wild horses?**

The Fiscal Year 2005 Interior Department Omnibus Appropriations Act (PL 108-447, Division E, Title 1, Section 142), which amended the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (PL 92-195), requires the BLM to sell gathered wild horses and burros that are more than 10 years of age or have been passed over for adoption at least three times.

**Are there any incentives for equine rescue groups to purchase the older horses?**

The Save the Mustangs Fund ([www.savethemustangs.org](http://www.savethemustangs.org)), created by Ford Motor Company in partnership with the BLM and Take Pride in America, is offering \$100 for each wild horse purchased by equine rescue groups. The purpose of the Fund is to support the rescue groups' efforts in placing these animals in good homes.

**How will the Save the Mustangs Fund money be sent to the rescue groups?**

The groups will receive a direct deposit form that will need to be completed and returned with the signed bill of sale. The Fund money will be deposited into the rescue group's bank account via direct deposit once the horses are delivered.

**How do rescue groups qualify for the "grants" from the Save the Mustangs Fund?**

To qualify, an equine rescue group must provide documentation that it is a 501(c)(3) organization. The group must also demonstrate to the satisfaction of the BLM and Take Pride in America that it will provide for the long-term care of the animals. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis, as long as funding is available. If you are interested in this offer, please contact the BLM at **1-800-710-7597** or at [wildhorse@blm.gov](mailto:wildhorse@blm.gov).

**How many animals can a rescue group buy?**

A group can buy as many older horses as can be accommodated on its land. The BLM will deliver 20 or more horses directly to the group or to a central location for pickup. The Bureau cannot deliver less than 20 horses because of the costs involved. If a group wants only one or two animals, it can pick up the animals at the nearest BLM wild horse and burro facility.

**What is the price for equine rescue groups to buy these horses?**

Older wild horses will be sold to equine rescue groups for \$10 each. Currently, there are about 8,200 mares and geldings available for sale.


**Are there any restrictions on what the groups can do with the older wild horses once they are purchased?**

Buyers are obligated through the terms of the bill of sale to provide humane care to the wild horses they purchase. Also, they are not to knowingly sell or transfer ownership of the horse(s) to any person or organization with an intention to resell, trade, or give away the animals for processing into commercial products.

**Is the BLM vaccinating and de-worming the saleable horses removed from long-term holding?**

No. The horses were vaccinated and de-wormed prior to their placement into long-term holding, but have not been treated since that time. They will have a current health certificate, Coggins test, and any vaccinations required to cross state lines.

**Will the sale animals be marked differently than adopted animals?**

Yes. All animals removed from the range, including those offered for adoption, will continue to be freezemarked with a unique number on the left side of the neck using the angle numeric system. In addition to the standard identification freezemark, all sale-eligible animals will be freezemarked with a three-inch  symbol on the left side of the neck to distinguish between sold and adopted animals.

**How will BLM transfer ownership?**

Upon approval and completion of each sale, the purchaser will receive a bill of sale.

**What is the BLM's timeline to sell the older horses?**

The sales program was initiated in March 2005 and is ongoing. Older wild horses can be purchased by the general public at any time.

**What will the BLM do with those animals that are saleable but remain unsold?**

The BLM will continue to care for those animals until they are sold. The Bureau will continue to make every effort to find good homes for sale-eligible animals.

**What should equine rescue groups do if they are interested in buying older wild horses or have questions?**

Please call **1-800-710-7597** or e-mail [wildhorse@blm.gov](mailto:wildhorse@blm.gov). Please provide your name, address, daytime phone number, and the number of horses you are interested in buying. The National Wild Horse and Burro Program Office will contact you to answer questions and complete the sale.